the Link

Concordia University
Montreal, Quebec

Volume 8, Number 38
Friday, March 18, 1988

Tuition hike proposed

Education reforms shock students

by Francesca Lo-Dico

A series of reforms proposed this week by the Quebec Council of Universities are elitist, discriminatory and suggest no improvements to the university system, according to CUSA co-president Maxine Clarke.

The Council—which serves as an advisory body to the minister of education—called for an increase in tuition fees, cuts in bursaries to students who don't finish their program on time, and doubling the number of bursaries going to doctoral and masters degree students. Their recommendations were submitted to Education minister Claude Ryan Tuesday.

"These recommendations are, if anything, counterproductive for the majority of students and problematic," said Clarke. "It's promoting privatization of education."

She said that the recommendations are elitist and discriminatory against students who may not be able to afford to study full-time.

"They say that their reasons are to encourage students to finish on time. With this so-called 'on time'", she said, "the government just wants to push students to get into the capitalist corporate world fast."

Director of Concordia's financial aid office, Roger Cote, said he has mixed feelings about the recommendations.

"The recommendations have to be researched and explored properly," he said. "I'd like to see a report with full details."

Students in Quebec pay the lowest tuition fees in the country—the average full-time student paying $540 a year compared to $1,200 to $1,500 in other provinces. Fees have been frozen since 1969.

The council's recommendations are "totally unacceptable" and the government is using the fact that Quebec's system—designed to make university education accessible to all Quebecers—is better than other provinces as an excuse, according to representatives of l'Association nationale des etudiantes et etudiants du Quebec (ANEEQ).

"They must recognise that although our system is better there are still problems that have to be recognised," said ANEEQ general secretary Jean-Pierre Paquet.

"They think that better is OK, so there is no need to improve the system in Quebec," said Paquet. "This is not a very scientific way of approaching the problems because they are not looking at the reality of the economic situation at Quebec."

A Leger-Lepage survey of more than 1,000 students from eight universities, including Concordia and McGill, reveals that if tuition fees were raised, 12 per cent of full-time students would quit school and 25 percent would change their status to part-time.

In Quebec, about 120,000 students receive financial aid. The Quebec government has budgeted $275 million on financial aid for this

Photo by Sue Nuttall

Montreal's black community is holding a mass rally and demonstration tomorrow (Saturday) to protest racism, police brutality and violations of human rights. It will begin at 2 pm in front of Somerled school in NDG.

Task force butts in on smoking

by Ita Kendall

Concordia has taken its first step towards eliminating smoking on the university's campuses.

A task force on smoking in university buildings was set up last week to prepare a set of recommendations for the reduction and possible elimination of smoking on campus.

"The amount of evidence is mounting as to the damage caused by smoking and it is time we moved to eliminate or almost eliminate it," said vice-rector of services Charles Giguere.

The task force consists of representatives from the Dean of Students office, Health Services, Human Resources, one graduate and one undergraduate student. It is tentatively scheduled to present a completed report to the Central and Health Safety Committee in June.

At McGill, smoking has been prohibited since February after the university's Board of Governors accepted the recommendations of a similar task force set up there.

Concordia's Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) has been pushing for a complete ban on smoking in all areas of the university except for separately ventilated smoking lounges.

CCAC member Andreas Seibert said he is happy the task force was established.

"There is a definite link between passive exposure to tobacco smoke and health problems," said Seibert who has been invited to attend the task force's next meeting as an observer.

Giguere said he is frustrated with Bill 84—the provincial non-smoking legislation—because the government has put the onus for enforcing the law on the university but has not provided extra money to deal with the problem.

At its first meeting last week, the undergraduate member of the task force, Susan Hunt, relayed a CUSA request to add a second undergraduate because students make up the largest portion of the university poplation exposed to the hazards of second-hand smoke.

According to task force chairperson Richad Guy, another undergraduate student may be added.

"The task force is expandable and there is a posssibilty that a second undergraduate student will be asked to join the task force," Guy said.

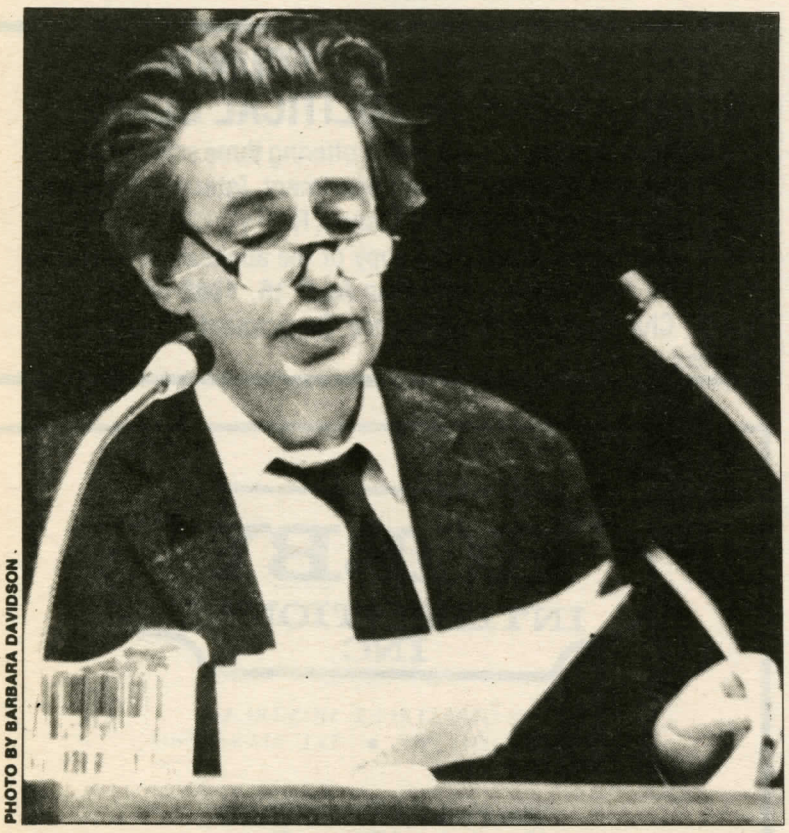

PHOTO BY BARBARA DAVIDSON

Former Sir George drop-out Mordecai Richler spoke at Concordia Wednesday. See story, page 3.

Palestinian exhibit disrupted

by Barbara Tylbor

The Hall building's mezzanine was the scene of a hostile confrontation Tuesday between the Palestinian Human Rights Collective and a group of Concordia students who claimed the PCHR featured a racist exhibition.

The newly-formed CUSA club sponsored an exhibition Monday and Tuesday, showing newspaper articles, posters, pamphlets and other literature referring to the history of Palestine and Israel and the recent violence on the Gaza Strip.

"Concordia should not be a place for political rally," said demonstrator Joel Smith. "They have the right to express their beliefs, but when they start presenting facts that aren't true this shouldn't be allowed.

"Paraphenalia equating Jews with Nazis and South Africans should be taken down, along with these two hate-breeding signs."

The group of students protested against a poster that read "The Israeli army is burying our people alive," which referred to an incident earlier this year when Israeli officers buried Palestinians alive with bulldozers, an act for which they are currently being court-martialed.

Another poster said, "Israelis stop murdering unborn Palestinians," which referred to a *Gazette* story reporting that 25 Palestinians suffered miscarriages from beatings by Israeli soldiers.

The protestors ripped down these posters Tuesday morning. In the afternoon the group gathered on the mezzanine to demand that PCHR remove material they deemed "slanderous and unfounded rumours."

As the crowd grew increasingly hostile, both CUSA co-president Maxine Clarke and dean of students Brian Counihan arrived to view the exhibition and speak to representatives of the PCHR and the student group.

Clark spoke with four protestors, explaining that she was in "no position as CUSA co-president to close down the PCHR's exhibit."

Counihan listened to the various positions put forth, and said "there should be a group that exists to regulate and review the content (of these exhibits). Right now there exists no policy to ensure that rights are protected."

PCHR coordinator Ra'ad Ra'ad said that all the information contained in the display was documented and truthful.

"We're not making up these facts," he said. "If I could get a letter from the Israeli consulate claiming our facts aren't true, I would take down this poster right now."

Many of the protesters objected to an illustration of the star of David (a Jewish religious symbol) composed of skeletal bones.

"When they (the PCHR) desecrate the Jewish star of David, a symbol of both Jews and Israel, in this way they also desecrate the Jewish culture itself," said protestor Ruth Reis.

"They have associated Israeli policies with Jewish actions—this is an Arab-Israeli conflict, not a Jewish conflict," she added. "Let them have their opinion and not desecrate the Jewish star and culture with this display."

Ra'ad said the group of protesters did not "go through the official channels" to complain about the exhibition.

However, he added the PCHR went through proper channels when it complained to CUSA's judicial board last month over the political content of a Jewish Cultural Week exhibition sponsored by Concordia's Hillel society.

He said the PCHR exhibition "did not maliciously go out to attack the Jewish people. We framed our exhibits around Israelis, not Jews."

Hillel president Alain Mamane said there is nothing wrong with having a human rights group, but objected to what he calls slanderous and racist material against Israelis and Jews.

The PCHR plans to take action against the students who tore down the posters by sending a letter to Hillel. The collective will also file charges against the protestors based on the university's non-academic code of conduct, which may result in penalties ranging from a fine to barring the students from the building.

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the Link

The Link is published every Tuesday and Friday during the academic year by The Link Publication Society inc. Content is independent of the university and CUSA. Editorial policy is set by an elected board as provided for in the *Link* constitution. Current members of the board are: Aaron Derfel, Robert Bock, Thia Feller and Steve Slawsky. Any student is welcome to join the *Link* and become a voting staff member. Mailing address: Concordia University, Sir George Williams Campus, Room H-649, 1455 de Maisonneuve West, Montreal, Quebec, H3G 1M8. For national advertising the *Link* is a member of Campus Plus (Canadian University Press Media Services Limited), 124 Merton St., Toronto, Ontario, M4S 2Z2, (416) 481-7783. Editorial typesetting by the *Link*. Advertising typesetting by Communication Centreville. Printed by Inter-Haul Developments. *The Link* is a member of Canadian University Press and the Ontario Community Newspapers Association.

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Agenda

Use the Agenda to publicise any Concordia-related event. Drop off your info at our offices at Sir George(H-649) or mail it in, indicating Agenda on the envelope. Deadlines are 5 p.m. Friday for Tuesday issues and 5 p.m. Wednesday for Friday issues.

FRIDAY MARCH 18

Super-Ski Days at Jay Peak Vermont. Bus leaves Hall Building 7:30 am, back by 6:30pm. $26 includes lift and trans. Deadline to signup Wednesday 4 pm. Sponsored by the Travel Resource Centre, H-508-2 848-7420.

MOOSEHEAD REVIEW Gala Fundraising night, 8:30 pm, at G.S.A. House, 2030 Mackay.

Exchange Concert at McGill, with University of Ottawa- Donald Whitton, cello, and Paul Stewart Piano. 8 pm, Pollack Hall, 555 sherbrooke W, FREE.

Laurentian Brass- 8 pm, Redpath Hall, 3461 McTavish, FREE.

Microcosm and Macrocosm- your place in the scheme of things; including practical meditation techniques, free. 7:30 pm, H-511-1. info 282-0672.

Angela Carter English writer reads from her new novel "Artificial Fire", 8 pm H-110. Sponsored by the English Dept.

SATURDAY MARCH 19

DEMONSTRATION against Racism, Police Brutality and violition of Human Rights- 2 -5pm, March from Somerled School west to Rosedale, south to Sherbooke,, east to Girouard Park. Sponsored by Black Community and the Coalition Against Systematic Oppression.

SUNDAY MARCH 20

Harpo's Cafe Belmore House, Loyola. Folk music, open stage, cheap coffee. 8 - 11:30 pm.FREE.

Society of Friends(Quakers) worship, 11 am Belmore House, all welcome.

MONDAY MARCH 21

Information Session for lease renewal 200 Dorchester W, (metro Place d'Armes)

TUESDAY MARCH 22

Vocal Ensembles at McGill- 5 pm, Pollack Hall, 555 Sherbrooke St w, FREE.

Debating Society meetings Wednesday 7 pm H-333-6 and Fridays 2 pm H-539-1

McGill Concert- Norair Artinian on piano. Works by Mozart, Chopin, Bartok, Rachmaninov. 8 pm, Pollack Hall, 555 Sherbrooke W, FREE.

Clarinet Recital- works by Rosza, Debussy, Edwards, Jarczyk and Bruch. Loyola Chapel, 7141 Sherbrooke W, 8 pm.

GENERAL

Weekly Meetings of Concordia Students against Apartheid every monday night, 6 rick the Great, C.P.E. Bach, Haydn, Mozart. pm. P-Annex, 2020 Mackay, rm 203. Everyone welcome.

Family Matters premiere performance, March 17, 8 pm; March 18, 3pm, 8 pm; March 19, 7 pm. Chameleon Studio, 7141 Sherbrooke W, FREE, limited seating.

Auberge Transitions a shelter for battered women in the Montreal area,needs volunteer(s) to help donations co-ordinator with clothing sortings. Training provided, only females please. 489-6607 after 6 pm ask for Linda or leave message on machine.

Classified

Classified rates: 20 cents per word for Concordia students, 25 cents per word for others. Deadlines are 5 p.m. Friday for Tuesday issues and 5 p.m. Wednesday for Friday issues. Drop off ad and payment in rm. H-549

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Male twins(brothers) age 14-40 are needed as paid volunteers for a survey beinng conducted by McGill University. Survey can be completed through the mail. Call 849-6814 and ask about the twin study.

SUMMER JOB: G.M. Moving and Storage is looking for full and part-time helpers and packers. Pay is $7/hr with the possibility of making up to $4000 for the summer. Busy time is between May 15 and July 15, with July and Aug. being more part-time. The fact that the job has very flexible hours(your choice) and that it can continue into fall semester make it an ideal job for students. Call and register now at 337-7899.

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continued on page 8

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Correction

A graphic which appeared in the March 4 issue of *the Link* was incorrectly credited. The graphic should have read "graphic: *the Mirror*.

The Link regrets the error.

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Drop-out drops by

Richler remembers Concordia of old

by Aaron Derfel

Novelist and former Sir George Williams drop-out Mordecai Richler visited Concordia Wednesday for the first time in 15 years and said the university has changed dramatically since he studied here in 1950.

"I was here at a very interesting time in '49 and '50," he told about 200 people in a rare public appearance in the Hall building auditorium. "There were a lot of war veterans here on the government bill, and they were so many years older than I was and had been through the war and they were far more mature..."

Richler, 57, gained international literary prominence for his 1956 novel *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*, a semi-autobiographical account of a teen-age boy living in Montreal's St. Urbain street district. The book was made into a movie as well as his most recent novel *Joshua Then and Now*.

While studying fine arts at Sir George Williams College, Richler served as an editor of *the Georgian* (now *the Link*) for three years. Sir George merged with Loyola College in 1974 to become Concordia.

"(Sir George) had the value of being a university open largely to working class people and to people who worked during the day," he said. "It served an office of some importance...I don't know much about (Concordia) now. This is the first time I've been in this building in about 15 years—it still looks like an insurance building."

Before the Jewish author of eight novels dropped out of Sir George in 1951 to sail for Europe, he stirred up controversy for his editorial attacks on the Hillel society—a Jewish students' organization which still exists at Concordia.

In an editorial published in 1950, Richler wrote, "To say that Hillel can speak for the Jewish student body at large is an obvious wrong to the many Jewish students who don't necessarily approve of Hillel and its policies."

Richler continued causing controversy for his satirical portait of a Jewish family in *Duddy Kravitz*.

"I had to force two novels through the hothouse before I found my own voice and wrote *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*, for which the pillars of Montreal's Jewish community have never forgiven me. I was once asked, 'Couldn't you have given the boy an Italian name?'"

Richler downplayed his roie as a student newspaper editor, saying, "I really can't remember that time. It's not as if my writing has gone downhill ever since."

Among Richler's other novels are *The Incomparable Atuk*, a satire about Canadian culture, and *St. Urbain's Horseman*, which he considers his greatest literary work. He has also written several books of essays, screenplays, and has served as a columnist for the fashion magazine *Gentleman's Quaterly*.

"After all these years, writing has become a habit," he said, adding that he writes every day until 4 p.m. "I never question why I do it any more than a welder wonders why he turns up at the shop every morning."

He said he's working on a novel about a Montreal Jewish business empire which he expects to finish this fall.

The audience burst into laughter when Richler—whose grandparents emmigrated to Canada from the Soviet Union and Poland —commented on current trends.

"Only yesterday," he said, "it seems my tonsils were plucked out on the dining room table, but now the trendy operation for my age group is open heart surgery—triple by-pass...

"I can remember—and can bore my children of tales of the good old days—when chicken tasted of something more than sawdust, actors didn't run for high office, hockey was a winter sport, speaking English wasn't an offense, doctors made house calls, mail was delivered and department stores would accept cash."

Richler received $2,500 for his one-hour speech, which was sponsored by the Fine Arts Visiting Lecturers Committee.

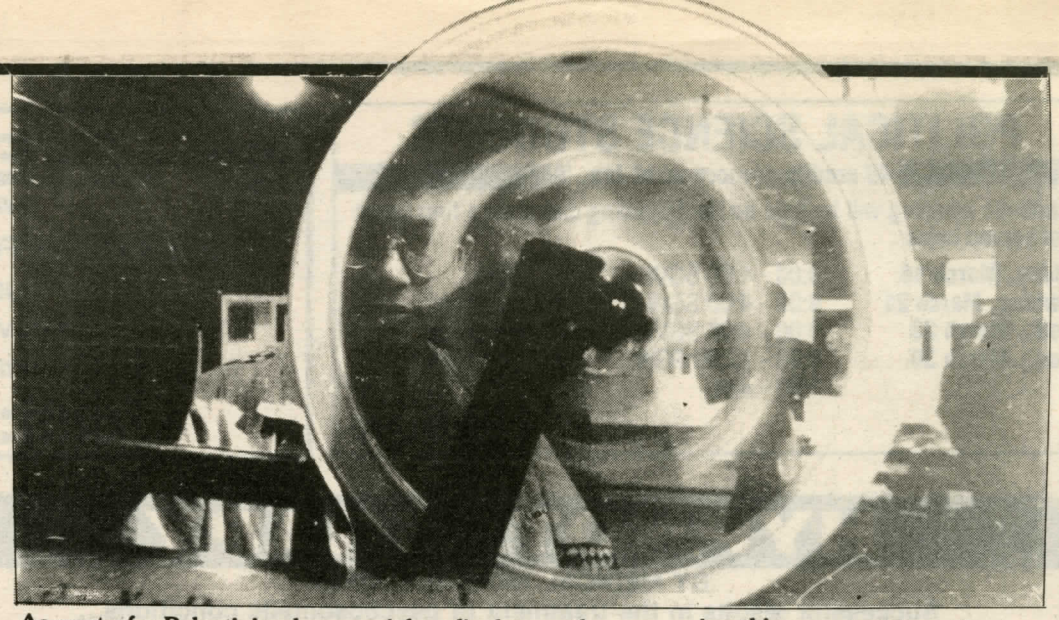


PHOTO BY XAVIER NUEZ

As part of a Palestinian human rights display on the mezzanine this week, this student shows a film on the history of Palestine.

News Briefs

U of T streaker picked up

Toronto (CUP—It's the time of the year to let it all hang out.

Last week a University of Toronto student spent a number of days walking around campus naked. He was picked up by the university police on Thurday .

"He created a bit of a stir on campus for a while," said Chief of U of T police Greg Albright.

"Unfortunately, this doesn't appear to be a fraternity sponsored thing. It appears there's some mental disturbance. He's been referred for medical attention."

"Nobody knows why he's been doing this. I can only speculate that he may be under a lot of pressure from exams," Albright added.

Cracked condoms cause college controversy

Red Deer (CUP)—Start worrrying if you've ever used the condoms from a dispenser at Red Deer College for anything other than a water balloon.

An inspector with the Health Protection branch of the department of Health and Welfare was called to the Alberta college when students reported condoms in a campus pub dispenser had outlasted their expiry date of June 1987.

Inspector Keith Hutcheon said condom manufacturers "are definitely required to have an expiry date" on their condoms, and the date of expiry "can be no more than five years from the date of manufacture."

This means the condoms, which did not have expiry dates listed on each individual package, could have been manufactured as early as 1982, and that they had expired. The condoms were supplied by A.J. Holdings, a Red Deer company.

The dispenser was stocked with new condoms at the beginning of March, said Terry Ivan, student council's business manager, and each one lists the expiry date.

Peace tour gears up

Vancouver (CUP)—Convincing students they were born to save the world will be no easy task, but the world's most famous peace activist will tackle it when she tours Canada's university campuses beginning April 8.

Dr. Helen Caldicott is returning to Canada to promote the Canadian Peace Pledge Campaign, which aims to make defence policy a major issue in the next federal election.

Caldicott, an inspiring speaker who can move her audinece from laughter to tears and back again, has awakened many listeners to the threat of nuclear war and the need to work for human survival.

"Our generation was born for one reason," Caldicott says. "We were born to save the world."

During her upcoming tour, organised by the 375 member Canadian Peace Alliance, Caldicott will offer her advice on "making Canada a world leader for peace."

An activist since 1971, Caldicott campaigned against French nuclear testing in the South Pacific and uranium mining in Australia.

In 1980, she gave up her posiiton on the faculty of Harvard medical school to found Physicians for Social Responsibility, a group which later received the Nobel Peace Prize.

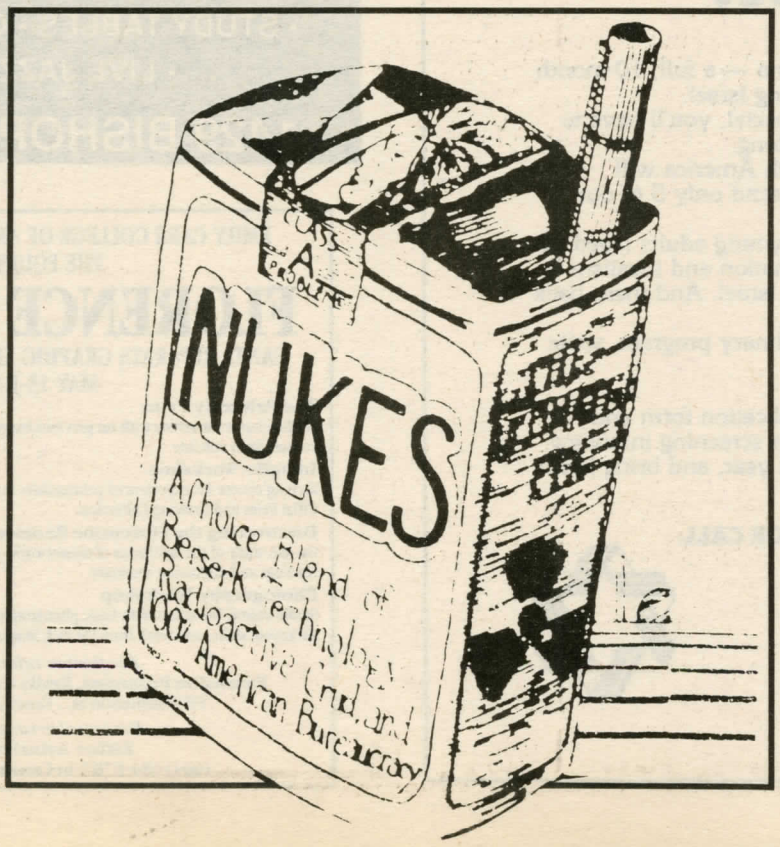
In 1982, she gained stardom and notoriety in the Canadian film "If you love this planet." A National Film Board release, the film won an academy award as this year's best short documenary.

The U.S. state department did not share the academy's enthusiasm, however, and labelled the film "propaganda of a foreign agent."

The author of "Nuclear Madness" and "Misile Envy," Caldicott says she experienced "a state of clinical shock" after a 75 minute interview with U.S. president Reagan in 1982.

In 1984, during the U.S. presidential elections, she sold her home to take to the road and continue her public education on the dangers of nuclear war and the alternative strategies which would foster world peace.

She continues those efforts today.



More facts women should know about the Pill

In this issue of *the Link*, there is an ad entitled "Facts Every Woman Interested in Birth Control Should Know About The Pill". It is placed by a pharmaceutical company which manufactures the pill and goes into great detail about alleged evidence about the pill's beneficial effects.

The ad does not go into any detail, however, about its statement that the pill involves some degree of risk. The following are some of thse risks, taken from the book *Male Practice* by medical professor Robert Mendelsohn.

The Pill has been linked to more than 50 adverse effects including higher incidences of cancer of the cervix, uterus, breast and liver as well as heart attacks, strokes, diabetes, gall bladder disease, pulmonary embolism, hypertension, permanent sterility and mental depression. To these major effects can be added a score of lesser symptoms, including vaginal infections, loss of hair on the scalp and growth of hair on the face. The pill has been responsible for many deaths.

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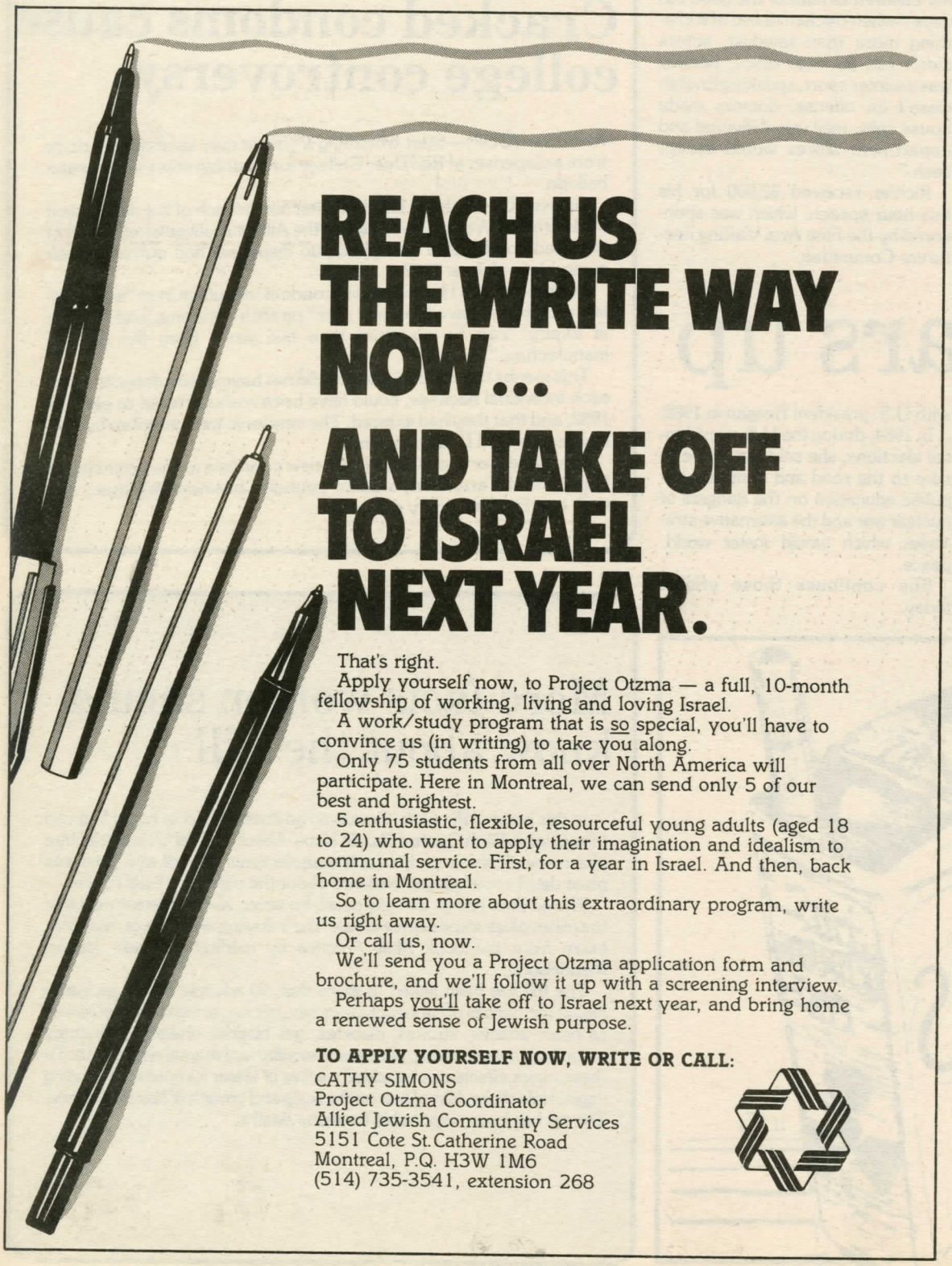

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Concordia film

Heading for stardom

by George Iannantuono

If you're looking for the cream of the cinematic cream in terms of university productions, then look no further—you're standing in the midst of it. Concordia has once again demonstrated its artistic and technical abilities by dominating last week's International Youth Cinema Festival.

The jury of this Quebec-based event, after judging and evaluating up to 100 local and international productions, awarded Jean-Françoois Pothier the "grand prix" as well as the prestigious Alcan prize for his 16mm production of *Clochard Dans L'Ame*.

Second prize in the 16mm category went to Nathalie Goulet, who produced *Absences Ou Emile Et Un Souvenir*. As well, the film *Hollyweird*, by former Concordian Phillipe Spurrell, received second prize in the super 8 category and was nominated best technical production by the Quebec union of film technicians.

Mark Morgenstern, also a Concordia student, picked up the prize for best technical production based on his film *Illumination*.

This is not the first time that Concordia has done well in international competition: In 1987, Concordians won the first three prizes in the student productions category at the World Film Festival held here in Montreal every summer.

From these results, a pattern is emerging: a pattern which suggests that Concordia University's cinema department, including its staff and students, is a community to be reckoned with—and they've earned it through recognition and refinement.

One member of the community is the young and prolific Jean-françois Pothier, who is so modest about his work that he didn't bother to show up on the final night of the film festival when prizes were being awarded.

Despite his possible uncertainty about how the jury would receive his film, Pothier's *Clochard Dans L'Ame* has won first prize in two other international festivals and received special mention at the World Film Festival last year.

Clochard Dans L'Ame is the story of a young man who's escaped into the woods for isolation and reflection after a falling-out with his lover. The film focuses on the main actor, Alain Dessrosier (also awarded best actor in the Youth Cinema Fest), as he retrospects on time spent in the city with his former lover and wonders about the whole notion of love.

As Pothier puts it, "The questions the main character asks are questions we all ask about ourselves and about love relationships."

The film also makes a spectacle of itself with clever, well-executed juxtapositions of urban images and wilderness scenery. We see the main character in a spacious landscape setting, thinking back to smoky bar scenes, smoggy city streets, and cluttered urban architecture.

Pothier himself was inspired to write the script to this film in response to a love affair he had with a woman.

He first became interested in film when, at 13, he was hired to play the part of an extra in popular Quebec filmmaker Jean-Claude Labrecque's *Les Vautours*. Pothier studied literature and communications at Jean De Brebeuf Cegep before becoming a Concordia student.

He spent ten months producing *Clochard Dans L'Ame*, which at first was rejected by his professors who thought the script was too cliché. But 9,000 privately-financed dollars later (except for approximately $1,100 from the cinema department), Pothier is now looking to sell his film to the CBC.

He's now in post-production of another film entitled: *Le Bonheur et Rita Rose-En-Talle*, a fairy tale for children and "big children" about two youngsters sent out in search of happiness.

Another member of the Concordia community is Phillip Spurell, second prize winner in the super 8 category. He is satisfied with his film's results but anticipates further success in future festivals.

Spurrell's film idea stemmed from an experience he had while on a bus to Hollywood in 1984. When the bus finally arrived at the initial site of the Hollywood tour, the bus driver said, in a sarcastic, parodying vocal tone, "Hollyweird...."

From this, Spurrell nurtured the idea of creating a film which would treat Hollywood clichés with black humour. Two years after commencing production, Spurrell came up with a film about a bored Montreal film projectionist who wishes he were in the media-propagated splendour of Hollywood.

The projectionist falls into a dream that curdles into a sour nightmare in which lead actor Steve Traynor (not nominated as best actor) is taken on a journey through a surrealistic depiction of Hollywood—a ruthless, star-spewing, soul-stealing movie machine.

Although Spurrell takes pride in his production, he thinks of it more as an "exercise in executing special and technical effects". He's presently seeking a new script for a film he plans to shoot next fall, and is negotiating a film project abroad with former Concordia journalism student Oshinka Tsiang—who is presently covering the apartheid crisis for his government in Botswana (Africa).

Congratulations to Concordia's award-winning filmmakers whose efforts bring Concordia both credibility and confidence.

Piece Work

by Fay Chin

Hysterical Women is at it again. Who or what is Hysterical Women, you ask? According to member Elise Moser, "The organization was born two years ago...(it's a) feminist theatre collective whose members also engage in a wide range of political work".

This week they are doing that work together when they present "Piece Work", an evening of political and cultural pieces by various artists and groups in Montreal.

Pieces of poetry will be provided by Patricia Lazcano, a Chilean poet active in the Latin American community. As well, Alanis Obomsawin, a Native storyteller, will indulge in song and poetry. Wait, there's more!

We'll see excerpts of the play *On the Double* featuring le Groupe Culturel Montreal Serai—a South Asian theatre performance group. Hysterical Women will provide a segment of feminist comedy too.

Nope, I'm not finished yet.

There's a special screening of *Painted Landscape*, a film on the art of Sue Coe—a well known British artist working in New York. The film, made by Helene Klowdawsky, won a special jury prize at the San Francisco Film Fest in 1987.

Finally, two videos will also be screened—*Crowsfeet* and *Daughter in my Shadow*. *Crowsfeet* is a concert video of a dance performance by a political dance collective based in the States. The video itself was produced in Montreal. *Daughter in my Shadow*, by Benedicte Deschamps, is about a girl growing up in Chinatown.

The evening is a benefit to raise funds for the Third International Feminist Book Fair, to take place in June. Similar shows have been presented by Hysterical Women in past years and have met with positive response. Now the details....

Piece Work takes place Friday March 18 and Saturday March 19. Patricia Lazcano performs only on Saturday, while Alanis Obomsawin performs only on Friday.

It's happening at 8:30 pm each night at Dazibao Gallery, 4060 St.Laurent suite 104. The suggested donation is $5 for employed people and $3 to $0 for unemployed people.

Childcare and wheelchair accommodation are available by calling 527-3890.

Cheap!

Inherit the Wind, a dramatization of the 1925 Monkey trial over teaching evolution in schools, which pitted Clarence Darow and William Jennings Bryan against each other in the battle for the human right to think. It's happening at the McGill Players Theatre every night (except March 20 and 21) until March 26, starting at 8pm sharp. The theatre is on the third floor at 3480 McTavish. $4 for students.

Spring Festival at Poodles on Sunday night, with a personal visit from the God Vishnu....sounds very tacky. Tactless people should report to 3699 St.Laurent.

The Child is a play by Keigh Dorland about a common tragedy—a family torn apart by a drunk driver and a dead child. The Playwrights' Workshop presents a reading on Mar.18 and 19 at 8:30pm at 4001 Berri ($5 non-members); you can also see it for free on Mar.18 at 8pm at Maison de la culture Cote-des-Neiges (5290 Cote-des-Neiges) and at the same time on Mar.24 at the NDG Maison (3755 Botrel).

Seize the evening an open reading, evening of spontaneous uprising, denunciation of artistic and political repression by city, state and neo-Fascist youth....a free event March 18 at 8pm at Fokus Gallery, 68 Duluth E.

Costa Rica No Return a comedy radio special is airing on Saturday at 10:05am on CBC Stereo and Sunday at 1:33pm on CBC Radio. It's based on writer Hugh Graham's true-life encounters and observations from four trips to Costa Rica. Graham and seven "actors" shed light on the CIA in Central America.

Vinci, a theatrical creation conceived and performed by Robert Le page, is showing at the Patro le Prévost House of Culture, 7355 Christophe Colomb, Saturday and Sunday nights at 8pm. Call 872-1730 for reservations. FREE.

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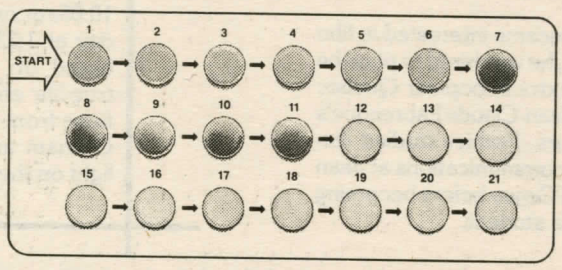
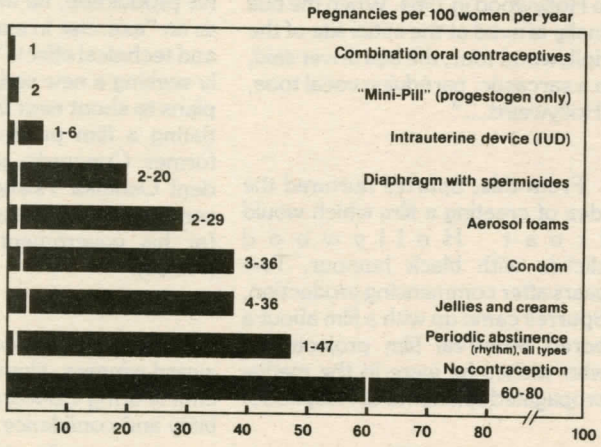
FACTS EVERY WOMAN INTERESTED IN BIRTH CONTROL SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE PILL



In 1960 "The Pill" created a revolution. It is likely that no modern scientific development has had a more profound impact on society than the oral contraceptive. It is also likely that no other medical development has been more exhaustively studied, or more subject to controversy, confusion or misinformation. There have been enormously important advances in research and knowledge since 1960 and the most widely used oral contraceptives today are quite different from the one that started the revolution. If you are concerned about contraception you should understand the facts.

Some important facts about today's oral contraceptives

1. The oral contraceptive most often prescribed by doctors today contains less hormone in an entire month's supply than the first product contained in a single tablet taken for one day.
2. Today there are nineteen different brands of oral contraceptives available to Canadian women. They vary in hormone dosage and ingredients. Some are new. Others have been in use for many years.
3. Until recently, oral contraceptives involved taking the same strength of pill throughout the monthly cycle. The first advanced triphasic oral contraceptive, introduced three years ago, varies the strength of both of the active ingredients in three stages. This permits a large reduction in hormone dosage resulting in fewer minor side effects.
4. Here is a comparison of the effectiveness of various methods of birth control.[1]



The figures (except for oral contraceptives and the IUD) vary widely because people differ in how well they use each method. Very faithful users of the various methods may achieve pregnancy rates in the lower ranges. Other women may expect pregnancy rates more in the middle of these ranges.

5. Most oral contraceptives are virtually 100% effective in preventing pregnancy when taken as directed. They are the most effective method of reversible contraception available.
6. As with any medication The Pill involves some degree of risk, although the low-dose products minimize this risk.
7. There are certain groups of women who should not use The Pill. Your doctor will advise you if you are in one of these groups.
8. Extensive studies show that women over 35 who smoke are at greater risk and should not use The Pill.
9. There is evidence that women who take The Pill may receive important beneficial effects including:
   (a) reduced incidence of endometrial and ovarian cancer,
   (b) reduced likelihood of developing benign breast disease,
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   (d) reduced incidence of pelvic inflammatory disease which can lead to infertility,
   (e) reduced anemia due to reduced menstrual blood loss,
   (f) reduced severity of menstrual cramps and premenstrual syndrome.
10. The health risk associated with the use of oral contraceptives is less than the health risk of childbirth except for women over 35 who smoke.

Remember, taking any medication involves a degree of risk. It is important to understand the facts so that you, with your doctor, can make an informed decision.

Supplementary information for women considering the use of oral contraceptives is available at your doctor's office or pharmacy.

This information is presented by Wyeth Ltd., the leader in oral contraception, serving the health needs of Canadians for over a century.

1 The Report on Oral Contraceptives, 1985, by the Special Advisory Committee on Reproductive Physiology to the Health Protection Branch, Health and Welfare Canada, September 1985.

continued from page 2

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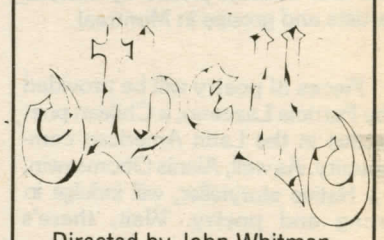

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Activists say circus is animal abuse

A day at the circus

by Janice Selina Edwards

Inside the Montreal forum a sad-faced clown with a plastic daisy on his hat signs autographs; men in red blazers carry big bags of popcorn and wear badges that say 95 cents; Pizza, Pizza and the hot dog stand do brisk business and children in wheelchairs and on crutches file into reserved front row seats. A fat boy scout chants "program, program." Then a loud whistle sounds, the lights go off and everyone stands up to sing the national anthem.

The 51st annual Shriners circus is just about to start.

Backstage elephants Reba, Dame, Smokey, Luna, Tonka, and Asia wear ankle chains that restrain their movement and wait alongwith the other circus animals for their cues.

Meanwhile just across the street about 50 people have joined voices in a chorus of "stop animal abuse." A demonstrator's sign shows a snarling lion behind bars. The caption reads "imprisoned without trial." On another sign blood red droplets stream down from the word "circus" onto an image of a tiger.

This demonstration was staged two weeks ago by the Concordia Animal Rights Association (CARA) to protest the use and abuse of wild animals in circuses. Over 51,000 Montrealers paid $8.50 and $10.50 for the nine showings of the Shriners Circus between March 3 and 6.

Back inside, Jack Althoff and his performing bears make their grand entrance in a motorized four wheel buggy. One of the bears dons a skirt to do an awkward dance to Russian folk music.

The highlight of the act is when one of the Siberian bruins drives a scooter around in circles. The bears that aren't performing are kept chained to a pole with a leash until it is their turn.

I'll take you into India and you will not find an elephant as well-proportioned and rounded-out as these are. A lot of circus elephants live to be 70 or 80 years old. Some animals in the wild never make it to their twenties.
—Bobby Moore, elephant trainer

You can also claim that people in prison have a longer life span than people out of prison. Who cares! They're still in prison.
—Sarah Terreault, Concordia Animal Rights Association

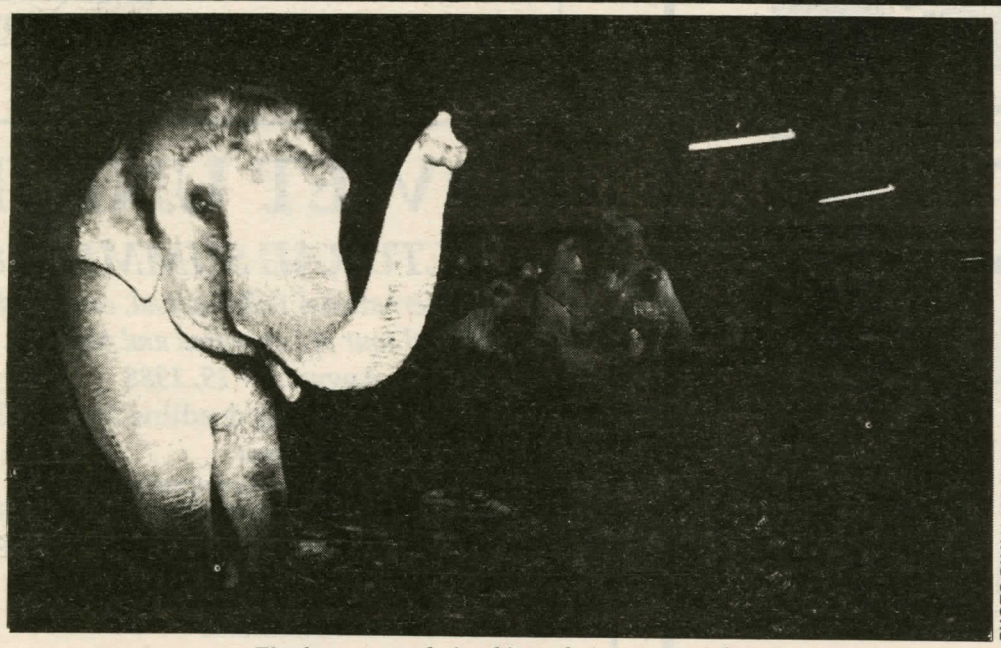

PHOTO BY XAVIER NUEZ

Elephants are chained into their pen at night.

Bobby Moore looks more like a wizard than an elephant trainer when he appears in a long red cape, his bald head glistening under the lights. He guides the Asian elephants with a small hooked metal rod on the end of a stick. They do the usual circus tricks like standing on their heads and balancing on rolling steel drums.

The master of ceremonies boasts that Moore has the youngest walking elephant in the world. The four-year-old baby stands on its hind legs, takes a few shaky steps and goes back down on all fours. The crowd's approval is deafening.

The lion act is done within the confines of a giant cage set up for the occasion. The "lordly" lions described in the program slink sullenly into their positions. Julius Von Uhl engages one of the wild cats in a mock fight. Another one plays dead on cue. The whip is never far from Uhl's hands.

"They're performing acts that aren't part of their natural behaviour," said Sarah Terreault, a member of CARA. "These are things that we've thought of and decided are cute and imposed on animals which have nothing to do with their natural desires or tendencies."

This is not the first time that CARA has rallied for the rights of circus animals. Last March and August it held similar demonstrations against the Shriners Circus, and in September CARA members protested against the Moscow Circus.

Sandra Coley, another CARA member, stressed that the demonstration on March 4 was more than just a vindictive attack on one circus.

"We're not saying that the Shriners and their trainers are awful people," she said. "We're saying that they're part of a system that doesn't understand that what they're doing is fundamentally unethical and wrong. Animals have their own interest and their own needs, desires and wants."

The circus animal issue is an emotional one. It pits animal rights activists against animal trainers who resent people that protest against what is essentially their livelihood.

"I'm here every minute with these animals myself," said Moore. "These animal rights people come out once a week or once a month and picket and think that they're going to save the world."

"Most of them don't know what they're talking about," said Uhl, referring to animal rights activists. "How many of them are experts?" he asked.

There are no experts at CARA, but its members have done enough research so that they can make very specific allegations about the training of wild animals. Terreault says that the training of wild cats is especially brutal and "involves beating and using whips and sticks."

Uhl disagreed. "I spank my kids and I spank my lions the same way," he said matter of factly. "They're part of my family."

Terreault maintains that elephants go through a similar abusive training regimen where "sticks with hooks on the end of them are applied to the inside of their ears and lips to get them to perform various tricks."

Moore denied this. In fact, he said, his elephants are spoiled: "Those elephants get better care than 90 per cent of the kids in the United States," he said. "They're washed, pampered and scrubbed from head to toe every day. There's somebody with them 24 hours a day to take care of them and as soon as they go to the bathroom it's picked up and sawdust is layed down."

In the book *The Lady and Her Tiger*, animal trainer Pat Derby writes about the confined existence that circus animals lead. Quarantine laws prevent them from being exercised outside their cages except during performances.

"We make them into creatures who fear the sky, who can't feel safe anywhere but within a few square feet of stone and steel and darkness," she writes.

"These elephants travel from one end of the country to the other," says Moore. "I've had these elephants up in the mountains in Denver Colorado. We turned them loose for two days. We've been in the ocean swimming with them. They've seen more than probably you and I have."

According to Uhl, it is not cruel to keep lions in cages because they sleep 20 hours a day. "In the jungle when you see a lion under a tree, you come back a week later and you see the same lion under the same tree," he said.

Terreault says that the reward system is not enough of an incentive for wild animals to perform tricks and so food and water deprivation is used instead.

"That's bullshit," says Moore. "It costs me thousands of dollars a month to feed these elephants....These elephants mean more to me than anything....Strictly the rest of my life will be devoted to these elephants."

Trainer Althoff maintains that he always rewards his bears with sugar when they have done a trick well.

But according to CARA, circus animals also suffer psychologically. Member Wendy Dow said that animal psychologists have determined that the pacing and head-swaying often exhibited by animals in captivity indicate extreme stress.

Althoff doesn't see it that way. "Our animals have a good life," he said. "We have to fight, our animals don't have to fight."

By the time Uhl, Moore, Althoff and the rest take their last bows in centrestage, the animals have already been locked up for the night. The spectators burst into applause.

PHOTO BY XAVIER NUEZ

Trainer and friend?

continued from page 1

academic year. Of that amount, $200 million funds bursaries while $75 million pays the interest charges on loans.

At Concordia 4,100 students receive loans and bursaries. The university receives about $14 million from the government to distribute financial aid.

Paquet said the council is contradicitng itself because two years ago it promised to increase funding for the financial aid system but cut the budget after two years in power.

"They change their minds very fast," Paquet sid.

Clarke said that she is worried that Ryan will use the council's recommendations as ammunition to back up government proposals, such as increasing tuition fees.

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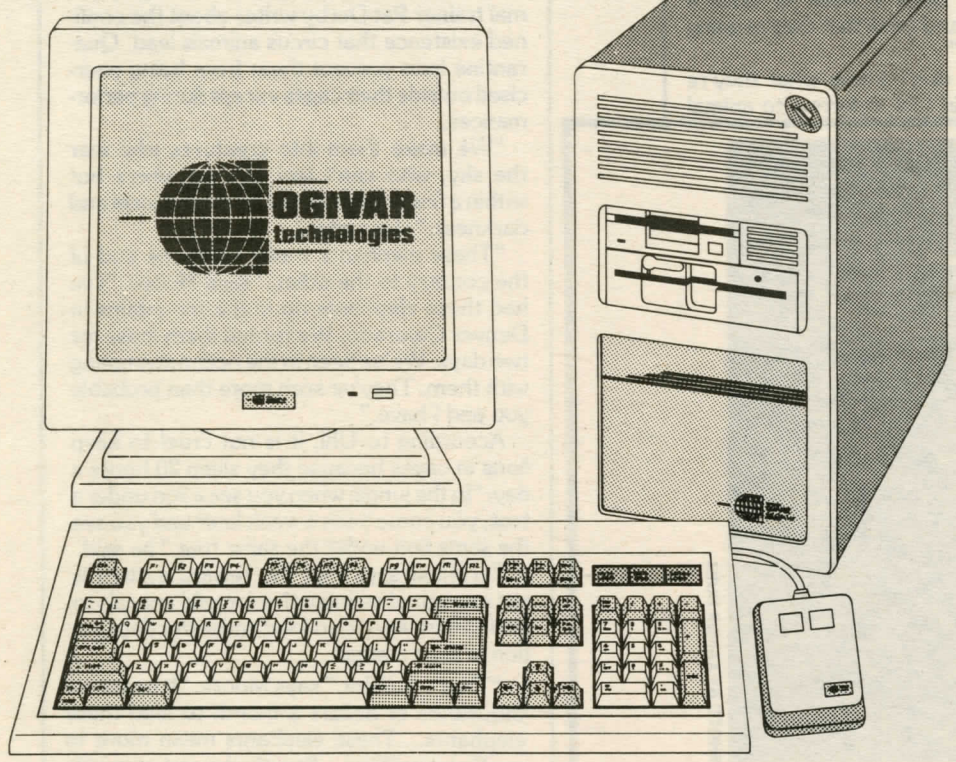

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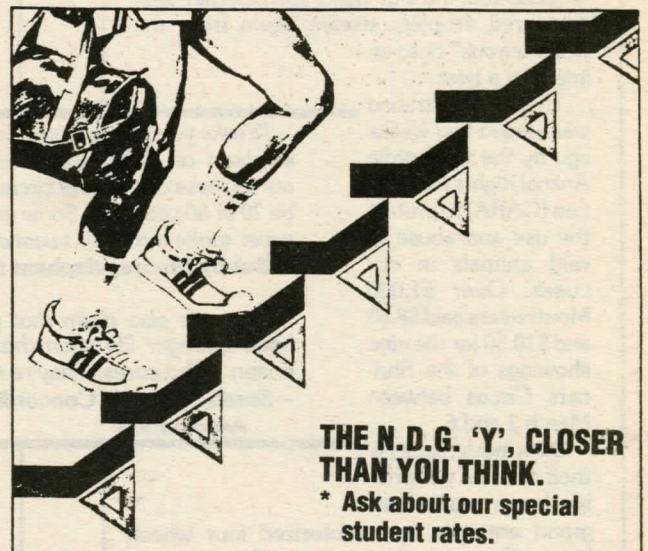

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